GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4496
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Waste Storage and Sanitisation Methods
Birla Shri Om

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways is aware that train tracks face massive corrosions due to release of human soil and other waste on them during journeys;
(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the same and find alternate waste storage and sanitisation methods; and
(c) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the reports of the Kakodkar and Pitroda Committees in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) Yes, Madam. The general corrosion in the train track happens due to aggressive environmental conditions and especially so in the coastal areas due to salinity, in the tunnels, cuttings and yards due to dampness, and in sidings where corrosive goods are handled. Corrosion of rails and fittings also takes place due to toilet droppings from passenger trains.

(b) To prevent release of human soil on to the tracks, environment friendly bio-toilets are now being provided in mainline coaches progressively. Besides, waste from train en-route is being collected in garbage bag and disposed off during cleaning at nominated clean train stations where limited mechanized cleaning of identified trains is being done by on-board cleaning staff under on board housekeeping scheme (OBHS) on select trains.
In addition, following measures are being taken to protect the rails from corrosion due to above reasons:
(i) The corrosion resistant rails, Nickel-Chromium-Copper (NCC) rails and Copper-Molybdenum (Cu-Mu) rails, are under development and laid in few Zonal Railways in limited stretch on trial basis.
(ii) Anti-corrosive bituminous painting of rails and greasing and sealing of liner contact area being done on identified corrosion prone areas.

(c) Kakodkar Committee has made a number of recommendations in its Report including therein that toilets either with no discharge or with harmless discharge, should be introduced in all the 43000 coaches within next five years. Sam Pitroda committee has recommended adoption of Green toilets on all passenger trains.
As on 31.10.2016, approximately 49000 Bio-toilets have been fitted on approximately 14,000 coaches. Continuous efforts are underway to fit Bio-tiolets on all coaches and convert entire fleet of coaches on Indian Railways.
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